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Message Text

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44
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W
---------- 077453
P R 161510Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2113
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IT
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - TIA AFFINITY CHARTERS

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (TIA) CONTINUES TO OPERATE SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS IN VIOLATION OF CIVILAVIA REGULATIONS, DESPITE NOTICE FROM CIVILAVIA THAT SUCH PRACTICE NOT PERMITTED. FLIGHTS IN QUESTION INVOLVE DC-10 WHICH STOPS FIRST IN NICE, FRANCE TO OFFLOAD ONE AFFINITY GROUP AND THEN CONTINUES ON TO ROME (CHIAMPINO) WHERE SECOND AFFINITY GROUP IS OFFLOADED. ON RETURN TRIP STOP IS MADE IN NICE TO PICK UP AFFINITY GROUP PREVIOUSLY OFFLOADED THERE.

2. CIVILAVIA REGULATIONS PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS ONLY WHEN ALL SUCH GROUP ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT ARE DESTINED FOR ITALY. CIVILAVIA NOW FULLY AWARE OF TIA PRACTICE. IN ITS NOTICE 321048/34, CIVILAVIA INFORMED LOCAL TIA REP, WHO IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED TIA HEADQUARTERS, THAT NICE/ROME TYPE SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS NOT RPT NOT PERMISSABLE. CIVILAVIA HAS NOW ASKED LOCAL TIA REP EXPLAIN WHY TIA DC-10 CHARTERS DUE ROME JULY 20 AND 27 HAVE ONLY 134 AND 124 PASSENGERS, RESPECTIVELY. (REASON IS, OF COURSE, THAT OTHER PASSENGERS WILL BE OFFLOADED FIRST IN NICE.) EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT DECUMENTATION SUPPLIED CIVILAVIA BY TIA DOES NOT INDICATE
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NATURE OF STOP IN NICE AND MAY NOT SHOW SUCH A STOP AT ALL.

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3. THERE IS NOW EXCELLENT CHANCE THAT, IF TIA OPERATES JULY 20 AND 27 FLIGHTS VIA NICE OR OTHER INTERMEDIATE POINT (OR FIRST TO ROME AND THEN TO ANOTHER DESTINATION), AS THEY HAVE IN PAST, CIVILAVIA WILL NOT REP NOT PERMIT PASSENGERS TO DISEMBARK. PASSENGERS FROM PREVIOUS NICE/ROME FLIGHTS, SCHEDULED TO RETURN JULY 20 AND 27, WOULD PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED TO BOARD AIRCRAFT. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY IS FOR CIVILAVIA REFUSE PERMISSION TO OPERATE JULY 20 AND 27 CHARTERS. LOCAL TIA REP AWARE THAT ABOVE A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY.

4. AS RESULT OF THESE TIA OPERATIONS, CIVILAVIA NOW CHECKING AFFINITY CHARTERS (BOTH SINGLE AND SPLIT) VERY CLOSELY. WE COULD HAVE LENGTHY DEPARTURE DELAYS AS A RESULT, IF CIVILAVIA DECIDES ON DETAILED INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTS CHECK AS PART OF BOARDING PROCEDURE.

5. GIVEN PREVIOUS CIVILAVIA NOTICE TO TIA AND FACT THAT OPERATIONS DESCRIBED ABOVE DO NOT RPT NOT CONFORM TO CIVILAVIA REGULATIONS, EMBASSY NOT RPT NOT IN POSITION TO ASSIST TIA. LOCAL TIA REP SO INFORMED BY EMBOFF ON JULY 16. IN ORDER AVOID STRANDED PASSENGERS OR REFUSAL TO DISEMBARK PASSENGERS UPON ARRIVAL, EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT CONTACT TIA'S US HEADQUARTERS AND EXPLAIN SITUATION.

6. COMMENT. US-ITALY CIVAIR RELATIONS HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITHOUT THIS FURTHER COMPLICATING FACTOR. TIA'S ACTIONS REDUCE CHANCES OF GOI ACCEPTING OTHER TYPES OF CHARTERS -- EMBASSY HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF TRAVEL GROUP AND SPECIAL EVENTS CHARTERS -- AS WELL AS HARMING PROSPECTS FOR US-ITALY AGREEMENT ON CHARTERWORTHINESS, FOR WHICH NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY.VOLPE

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